

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method of performing operations on a plurality of
2 linked records, the method comprising:
 - 3 (a) determining at least two selected records from an end user in
4 response to user selection of at least two of a plurality of node display elements,
5 wherein each node display element is associated with one of the plurality of
6 linked records, and wherein at least a pair of node display elements are
7 respectively associated with a pair of records that are linked to one another, the
8 pair of node display elements graphically linked with one another; and
9 (b) performing a common operation on the selected records.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation is selected from the
2 group consisting of printing the selected records, storing the selected records, caching
3 the selected records, retrieving the selected records, editing the selected records, and
4 combinations thereof.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation includes printing the
2 selected records.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining a number of copies
2 to print for each selected record based upon user selection.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining the number of copies for a first
2 selected record is responsive to a number of times the end user selects the first selected
3 record.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the common operation includes retrieving
2 the selected records.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2 (a) displaying a link display element graphically linked to a node display
3 element for a first selected record to be retrieved; and

4 (b) displaying a retrieve progress indicator during retrieval of the first
5 selected record, the retrieve progress indicator graphically linked to one of the
6 link display element and the node display element associated with the first
7 selected record.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes
2 performing the common operation on the records in the order in which the selected
3 records were selected by an end user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes
2 performing the common operation hierarchically by performing the common operation
3 on a parent selected record prior to performing the common operation on a child
4 selected record thereto, wherein the parent selected record includes a link to the child
5 selected record.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the common operation includes
2 concurrently performing the common operation on the selected records.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of linked
2 records is a child record, and at least one of the plurality of linked records is a parent
3 record including a link to the child record, the method further comprising selecting the
4 child record in response to user selection of the node display element associated with
5 the parent record.

1 12. A computer system configured to perform operations on a plurality of
2 linked records, the computer system comprising:
3 (a) a computer display; and
4 (b) a processor configured to display on the computer display a
5 plurality of node display elements, wherein each node display element is
6 associated with one of the plurality of linked records, and wherein at least a pair
7 of node display elements are respectively associated with a pair of records that
8 are linked to one another, the pair of node display elements graphically linked
9 with one another; to determine at least two selected records from an end user in
10 response to user selection of at least two of the plurality of node display
11 elements; and to perform a common operation on the selected records.

1 13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation is
2 selected from the group consisting of printing the selected records, storing the selected
3 records, caching the selected records, retrieving the selected records, editing the
4 selected records, and combinations thereof.

1 14. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation includes
2 printing the selected records.

1 15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further
2 configured to determine a number of copies to print for each selected record based upon
3 user selection.

1 16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the processor is configured to
2 determine the number of copies for a first selected record responsive to a number of
3 times the end user selects the first selected record.

1 17. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the common operation includes
2 retrieving the selected records.

1 18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the processor is further
2 configured to display a link display element graphically linked to a node display
3 element for a first selected record to be retrieved, and to display a retrieve progress
4 indicator during retrieval of the first selected record, the retrieve progress indicator
5 graphically linked to one of the link display element and the node display element
6 associated with the first selected record.

1 19. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to
2 perform the common operation by performing the common operation on the records in
3 the order in which the selected records were selected by an end user.

1 20. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to
2 perform the common operation hierarchically by performing the common operation on
3 a parent selected record prior to performing the common operation on a child selected
4 record thereto, wherein the parent selected record includes a link to the child selected
5 record.

1 21. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to
2 perform the common operation by concurrently performing the common operation on
3 the selected records.

1 22. The computer system of claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of
2 linked records is a child record, and at least one of the plurality of linked records is a
3 parent record including a link to the child record, and wherein the processor is further
4 configured to select the child record in response to user selection of the node display
element associated with the parent record.

1 23. A program product comprising:

2 (a) a program configured to perform a method of performing operations
3 on a plurality of linked records, the method comprising determining at least two of
4 selected records from an end user in response to user selection of at least two of
5 a plurality of node display elements, wherein each node display element is
6 associated with one of the plurality of linked records, and wherein at least a pair
7 of node display elements are respectively associated with a pair of records that
8 are linked to one another, the pair of node display elements graphically linked
9 with one another; and performing a common operation on the selected records;
10 and
11 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

1 24. The program product of claim 23, wherein the signal bearing media

2 includes at least one of a transmission type media and a recordable media.